



GEORGIA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

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UPCOMING DEPOT EVENTS:

Monday, Feb 13
GA Electric Membership
Corporation 5:30-7:30pm

Tuesday, Feb 14
GA for Preservation Ac-
tion 5:00-7:00pm

Wednesday, Feb. 15
Technology Leadership
Coalition 5:00-7:30pm

Monday, Feb 20
GA Association of Educa-
tors 5:00pm

Tuesday, Feb 21
Augusta Day- BBQ
5:30pm

Wednesday, Feb 22
Annual Lowndes County
Bird Supper 5:00pm

Thursday, Feb. 23
Laurens, Dodge & Bleck-
ley Counties 6:00pm

INTERN INSIDER

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HB 1059– Sex Offender Bill

By Josh Landers, House Intern

On February 24, 2005, the Lunsford's family faced their worst nightmare as the youngest member of their family went missing. She had last been seen when friends dropped her off at home after a Wednesday evening at church. After three physically and emotionally exhausting weeks, the Lunsford's family began to learn of what happened to young Jessica. John E. Couey, a repeat sex offender, abducted her while she was sleeping soundly in her home. Couey kid-napped, raped, and eventually buried Jessica alive approximately 150 yards from her home. With these findings, the Lunsford's family's worst fears had been realized.

Jessica's story shocked the nation and the public quickly called upon national and state legislators to address the issue of sex offenders. The members of the Georgia House of Representatives were of no exception and they have led the way in creating one of the country's toughest and most comprehensive laws on sexual offenses. Majority Leader Jerry Keen (R) of the 179th proposed House Bill 1059 on January 23, 2006 and said legislation rewrites as well as creates several new provisions so as to reign in sex offenders. First, said legislation creates new mandatory minimums for serious violent sex crimes. If an individual is convicted of such crimes, under this legislation, they will face a minimum of twenty-five (25) years in jail and lifetime probation. Secondly, House Bill 1059 eliminates first offender status for those convicted of sex crimes as it is believed that these crimes are too heinous in nature to ever be given such lenient treatment. Third, this legislation reorganizes the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board (SORRB) so as to require that all members be appointed by the Governor and all sexual offenders re-register with SORRB every year. Those designated as sexual predators will have to re-register every six months. Fourth, this bill requires that sex offenders not reside, work, or loiter within 1000 feet of those places designated as having a high number of children present. And the final major provision of this legislation requires that those designated as sexual predators be on probation for the rest of their lives and wear a satellite monitoring device so that authorities will always be aware of where these individuals are located.

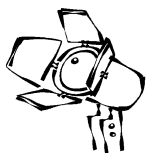
After lengthy debate and revisions within the Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, the Georgia House of Representatives, with overwhelming bipartisan support, passed House Bill 1059 on February 2, 2006.

After learning of his daughter's death, Mark Lunsford advised all parents to "make sure you get that hug and kiss every day." While House Bill 1059 is going to change as it continues through the legislative process, the foundation laid by the House of Representatives will help keep Georgia's children safe as well as ensure that parents will forever be able "hug and kiss" their child every single day.

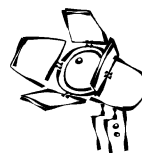


Wanted Dead or Alive!

Can anyone tell who this renegade intern is?
Answer on page 4.



Intern Spotlight



RIEAN KEITH NORMAN



School: University of West Georgia

Committee: Public Safety; State Institutions & Property; Interstate Corporation

Why did you want to be an intern for the Georgia General Assembly? This is a great opportunity for me to not only learn, but also apply the knowledge I have learned in the world of academia. It is also my hope I can acquire long-term relationships that may benefit me in the future.

What are your plans after this internship?

I am honored to have the opportunity to intern with the Department of State in the Bureau of International Information Programs this summer.

What issues are you most passionate about that are in this 2006 Session?

HB 1059– Sex Offenders

SB 84- Voter ID

HR 1045– HOPE Protection

INSIDE INFO ON RIEAN NORMAN:

Age: 21

Where are you from? Salt Lake City, Utah

Brothers/Sisters? 1 sister: Cherice E. Norman

Favorite Color: Gold

Favorite Movie: Butterfly Effect

What kind of music do you listen to? Classical and R&B

Pets? None

Favorite type of food: Macaroni & Cheese

Hobbies: Reading, Creative Writing, and Debate

Favorite sport: Football

BRYN P. RICHARDSON

School: University of Georgia

Major: Telecommunications

Why did you want to be an intern? To combine my interests of production with politics. I also felt this would be a great learning experience and could lead to a possible career path.

What do you plan on doing after this internship? Graduating and then hopefully either working at the Capitol doing something similar to what I do now, working on campaign trails (primarily on commercials), or working for an advertising firm. Also, one day I might find a girl who wants to be with me?

Other interests: Advertising, sports, poker, music, being right, and storm chasing

BRODIE BARTON

School: Chattahoochee Tech

Major: Entertainment Technology

Why did you want to be an intern? I felt it was a good opportunity to use my talents and abilities for good and not for evil. I knew that the experience would play a huge role in developing my career.



From the left: John Pelzel, Bryn Richardson, Justin Speck, and Brodie Barton

What do you plan on doing after this internship? Trying to find where I am most needed in the world.

Other interests: Movies/producing short films, music/playing guitar/piano/various other instruments, writing, poker, chess, billiards, chap stick enthusiast.

JUSTIN SPECK

School: Chattahoochee Tech

Major: Entertainment Technology

Why did you want to be an intern? I needed the credit hours and I thought it would be a great experience. I thought I could learn something and for the free cokes.

What do you plan on doing after this internship? I plan on continuing my job at The Weather Channel and pursuing my acting career. Acting for film and TV preferably.

Other interests: Movies, movies, movies, acting, shooting short films, wasting money on DVDs and comic books, playing drums/guitar.

JOHN PELZEL

School: Chattahoochee Tech

Major: Entertainment Technology

Why did you want to be an intern? One day, my instructor mentioned a position opening at the Capitol to work with broadcasting committee meetings using new state of the art equipment. I decided it was a great opportunity and jumped at the offer. I am now emotionally stable.

What do you plan on doing after this internship? I want a job that has some relation to my major. I really want to become a director of film.

Other interests: I love movies, music, video games, hockey, reading, writing, arithmetic, rocket science, belly dancing, long walks on the beach, and extreme whale hunting

The Remembrance of Coretta Scott King

Friday afternoon February 3, 2006, I had the privilege of being asked to work the Coretta Scott King Commemoration that would be held in the rotunda of the Capitol building. At first I was thinking *why did I volunteer my Saturday to work*, but then I told myself this would be a moment in history and I should play my small role in this historic event. When I arrived Saturday at the Capitol, little did I know that people from not only the city of Atlanta, but people from all over the United States would gather as early as possible to see the body of Mrs. Coretta Scott King lying in the rotunda of the Capitol. This was indeed an experience of a life time,

for that I had never seen so many people congregate to show their respects to a single person. Nonetheless, that single person Mrs. Coretta Scott King was the mother of the Civil Rights Movement. Mrs. King and her husband Martin Luther King were not only leaders amongst the black community, but they were inspirational figures to all that knew their heavenly presence. In closing, I have been extremely blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of such a momentous event that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

By: Erik Bryant , House Intern

Coordinator's Corner

I wanted to thank you for all your hard work. You have all gone above and beyond what is asked of you and it is greatly appreciated. I've actually had to find more work in the office because I don't have to check on my interns all the time. I know everyone sees how hard your working and you are helping the House of Representatives run as smoothly as it should. Thank you for doing what you are doing and making my job easy. You are the best group of interns and I greatly enjoy all the time we have spent together.

"Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought." JFK

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE!

Who would have thought that renegade would turn into our very own Scott Howard, Ways & Means.



Happy Birthday

Here are the interns that will be celebrating a birthday this wonderful month of February.

Matthew Richter- February 8

Esmeralda Godinez- February 14

Jason Little- February 19